



Jesus' Resurrection (EASTER)

Matthew 27-28

God Statement: Jesus Saves

KEY VERSE:

"He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven."

Colossians 1:13-14, NIRV

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you've completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the "Connect" reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...(most of the time)

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE**.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS:

In today's lesson, we are going to learn that Jesus Saves.

SAY: We celebrate EASTER today!! Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was buried in a tomb. Then, His friends saw that the tomb was empty! He didn't stay dead. Jesus is alive!!!

Play: What is Empty?

Supplies: several containers with lids prepared ahead of time; put several things in the containers, like: crayons, small blocks, small trucks

Directions:

- Prepare the containers: all are full of something from the classroom and one is empty.
- Shake the container and/or allow child to shake the container.

SAY: Is this empty?

- Open the lid to show that the container is NOT empty or that it IS empty.
- Repeat as long as kids are interested.

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > Babies OR 2s/3s folder**.

- Jesus Saves!
- Jesus is Alive!
- Jesus Loves Me

READ A BIBLE STORY

(5-7 minutes)

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This week, read about a Bible story from Matthew 27 & 28.

Read the Bible story below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures and repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word of the story! Kids have very

short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is Resurrected

(Matthew 27 & 28)

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a small plastic Easter Egg.

SAY: Hamilton, you have an Easter egg! Did you find that? ***Hamilton nods excitedly.*** Is there anything inside? ***Hamilton shakes his head no.*** Oh, it's empty, just like Jesus' tomb! ***Hamilton nods excitedly.*** Well, look what I have here! ***Bring out the large plastic Easter egg.*** Let's see what happens when we open this. Oh, here are some things that can help us tell the story of Easter.

In the plastic egg there should be these items:

- Placemat
- Praying hands
- Flower
- Cross
- Small empty box with a lid (from Explore activity)

Read the Lesson:

SAY:

- Inside this egg are some things that can remind us about Jesus and how He died for us and came alive again.
- ***Open the egg and remove each item one by one to talk about it.***

Placemat:

- Here is a placemat. Jesus had a special dinner with His friends.
 - Jesus told His friends that He had to go away.
 - This was their last supper together.
 - Let's pretend we are eating. Now take a drink.
 - They had a special meal and Jesus told them lots of important things.

Praying Hands:

- Here are some hands.
- What are they doing?
- Can you make your hands look like that?
- Yes, they are praying.
- We love to pray to talk to God.
 - Jesus loved to talk to His Father. Who is Jesus' father? Yes, God.

Flower:

- Jesus walked to one of His favorite places, a special garden.

- Here is a flower to remind us of a garden.
 - Let's stand up and pretend we're walking in a garden, too. Now sit down.
 - Jesus prayed and prayed.
 - He was getting ready to die for our sins.

Cross:

- Here is a cross. Jesus had to die an awful death on the cross.
 - He died for all of our sins.
 - What are some sins that we do? **(Let kids answer – lie, take things, hit)**
- Jesus loves us so much. He forgives our sins when we ask Him.

Empty Box:

- Here is a little box. *(Shake it)*
Let each child shake it.
 - Do you think it is empty? **(Open it)** Yes, it is empty.
 - Jesus' friends put His dead body in a tomb.
 - When they went to the tomb 3 days later, His body was gone! The tomb was empty. Jesus was ALIVE!
 - Let's jump up and celebrate. Jesus is ALIVE!
 - **Jump and dance for a moment, shouting "Jesus is alive!"**
- And Jesus is still alive. He is always alive and He loves YOU and ME and He forgives our sins when we ask Him.
- Jesus saved us from our sins.
- He forgives us when we sin.
- Jesus Saves!

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

SAY: Today our God statement is Jesus Saves. We are going to say our God statement in fun ways to help us remember it.

- Have the kids say it in a fun voice.
- Have them say it in a whisper.
- Have them say it in a loud voice.

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently. Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

This worship response is intentionally the same activity as Good Friday's.

Supplies: white paper cross, black marker, heart stickers

SAY: Let's think of some sins that kids do. *Let kids share.*

Make some suggestions if needed: say things that aren't true, hit, take things that don't belong to you.

Each time someone says a sin, invite the child to make a small mark on the cross. Don't worry if sins are repeated. Be sure there are several marks on the cross.

SAY: Jesus died on the cross for those sins. He loves you and forgives you. He saved us! He didn't stay dead. He is ALIVE and loves you!

Invite each child to put a heart on the cross, covering up the marks.

SAY: Jesus loves each of us so much, He saved us from our sins! Let's give ourselves a hug to remind us that Jesus loves us. Thank you, Jesus.

BLESSING (1 minute)

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

SAY: Friends, may you always remember that God loves you so much that he sent Jesus to us to save us from our sins. May you never forget that Jesus Saves.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

MAKE: Resurrection Sticker Scene

Supplies: Resurrection scene, stickers

Directions:

- Help kids put stickers on the scene to remind them of what Jesus did.



SAY: Let's look at all these stickers. Who are these people? *Help identify them and the other things happening in the scene.*

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"